

# Letters to the Editor

## CIA's Morality Is Questionable

I SAW the NBC documentary on CIA "spying" activities, the subject of a column by Tom Donnelly, and was shocked by what amounted to a public admission that we have been engaging in the very dubious activities cited in recent expose articles and books.

The picture is now clear: Those in control of our foreign policy (The President, according to CIA spokesmen, tho this still seems debatable) feel that the only solution to the threat of communism in unstable countries is to adopt communist tactics — to subvert and overthrow opposing factions of government, using military force, mercenaries, intrigue and psychological warfare. What a comment on faith in democratic government!

In righteous indignation, we lambast the "immoral" communists for stepping into political vacuums by these means. Exploiting troubled countries for our political purposes is no more moral. Once it was Christianity by the sword. Is it now to be democracy by force and political exploitation? We seem

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to have adopted a policy of "any means to an end."

Why must these nations be democratic — or communistic? A revamped foreign aid program aimed at easing particular economic problems of a nation, Peace Corps assistance when requested, and no political strings attached is the only rational course. We would then become a showcase for democracy, its productiveness and humanity, and gain friends by example and persuasion rather than naked force (which surely only makes enemies).

As a citizen, I strongly resent the fact that on top of policies of questionable morality, our government tells us blatant lies and deliberately misleads us. Covert wars carried out by the Executive Branch is hardly a democratic procedure.

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